

Unknown Marksman Wanted for Praise In Shooting Bandit

Somewhere in Southern California—perhaps right here at home—there is a hero whom Torrance and Redondo Beach police and the sheriff's officers want to meet and congratulate. His ability with a pistol Tuesday night led to the arrest of three young men, one of whom may not live, who were badly wanted in connection with a long series of holdups.

The authorities frankly admit they may never be given the opportunity of extending their felicitations to the marksman in person because of the strange circumstances of the shooting just over the Torrance line in Redondo Beach territory off Sepulveda Blvd. The authorities admit they may never be given the opportunity of extending their felicitations to the marksman in person because of the strange circumstances of the shooting just over the Torrance line in Redondo Beach territory off Sepulveda Blvd.

Planned L. A. Stick-ups
In Redondo Beach city jail are Marvin Lee Hinds, 21, of Hermosa Beach, and Leslie Gipson, 22, of Lawndale, asserted accomplices of Tarpley in the Tuesday night episode. Tarpley is said to be a two-time loser with a prison record while Gipson's most recent brush with the law resulted in his arrest here July 5 with his brother Bob and one other youth for stealing gasoline at the Greene hog ranch.

But here's the story of the Tuesday night shooting as police reconstructed it after long hours spent that night and yesterday morning questioning Hinds and Gipson:

The trio planned some stick-ups in Los Angeles early that evening but were unsuccessful. They drove to Torrance in Gipson's coupe—the same car he used with his brother Bob and Keith Wright in the gas theft job here July 5. Going out Sepulveda Blvd. to Redondo they noticed a car parked on a side road in the eucalyptus tree row that is the boundary between this city and Redondo Beach. After passing and re-passing the parked car several times, they drove in near it.

Shot Answers Command
Tarpley approached the machine on the driver's side, Hinds and Gipson coming up on the other side. Tarpley is said to have ordered:
"We only want your money—hand it out!"

There was a sudden shot from the rear seat and Tarpley staggered back into the darkness. Hinds and Gipson told investigating officers they saw a woman get out of the car screaming to her companion to shoot at them again. A second shot was fired at the fleeing Hinds and Gipson, coming so close to them that Hinds said he thought he was hit. None of the trio say they saw the face of their would-be victim who disappeared after the shooting and has not been heard of since.

'Petting-Party' Bandits
On reaching Gipson's car, the trio got in and drove to Redondo Beach. They tried to obtain aid for Tarpley from a friend there but the friend was not at home so they came back to the Hammetton tract where the wounded youth lives with an uncle, one of two in this community. The uncle advised them to go to the Torrance Memorial hospital.

It was at that institution that police learned of the shoot-up. (Continued on Page 8-A)

COUNCIL SESSION BECOMES POLITICAL FREE-FOR-ALL AS POWELL-MURRAY TAKE OVER

With the "short and ugly word" being banded about freely by George V. Powell and John V. Murray, recalled city councilmen, Tuesday night's council session was turned into a political fracas in behalf of the ousted officials, the like of which has never before been seen in the council chamber. Accusations, ranging from alleged incidents in the years-old city charter-schools campaign to asserted "disappearance" of Powell and Murray's nomination petitions, led to the former councilmen joining in a heated attack on City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Despite Mayor Tom McGuire's request that the discussion remain free from political matters—he pointed out that "it is required that we sit here and listen to a political talk which has no bearing on matters of civic interest before the city council"—the harangues continued, fed by Powell and Murray's repeated use of the word "liar" in addressing the city clerk.

Twice during the heated verbal volleys fired by the ousted councilmen and supporters, Mayor McGuire insisted the speeches were improper at a council meeting. But the politicians were not to be denied using the session as a sounding board for their opinions on (1) selection of two candidates at a citizens' meeting Aug. 6; (2) the former city auditor's activities in old charter campaigns; (3) how Powell and Murray's nomination petitions were circulated and photostated; (4) Clerk Bartlett's refusal to file those petitions; (5) condition of city water; (6) recall of the remaining members of the city council; (7) fair play; (8) how Powell and Murray are making a "clean fight" and other similar political subjects.

Babbitt Orates, Apologizes
It remained for Murray to shout "liar" at Bartlett and for Powell to top it off with his remarks about "lying city officials" and "well be back in here and there will be fair play in this council."

Tom Babbitt of 1416 Cedar Ave. was the first spokesman, opening his speech with the statement: "Maybe I'm a dope coming here tonight because it takes a lot of courage to say what I've got to say and all of us (who are for Powell and Murray) are on a spot." After praising his friends and comparing Powell—"a school custodian but a good one"—to the "poor Carpenter who drove the thieves out of the temple," Babbitt (Continued on Page 8-A)

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SECTION A

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WPA Approves Torrance Blvd. Improvement

W.P.A. authorities in Washington have approved the project for improvement of Torrance Blvd., but has not established priority for the job. Glenn Jain, city engineer, informed the city council at an adjourned meeting late yesterday afternoon. Federal engineers have inspected the boulevard and approved the proposed improvement from Sartori to Fern Ave., Jain said.

He indicated there was a possibility that the project, estimated to cost approximately \$40,000, may be given a favored priority rating as a national defense project inasmuch as it is one of the most important arterials in this industrial city.

Plans drafted by the engineer provided for planting in the center parkway between a double-barrel highway but no additional paving from Madrid westerly to Fern Ave. Culverts are proposed for Madrid, Sartori and Encargia Aves. and at the P. E. station. A petition asking that these plans be changed so that the street would be paved curb-to-curb was submitted to the council by 40 signers last May. At that time city officials said it was too late to change the plans as they had already been forwarded to Washington for W.P.A. approval.

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Council Auctions Four Tax-Deeded Lots at Meeting

Four of 15 tax-deeded lots placed on the auction block at city council meeting Tuesday night were sold with the city realizing an apparent net profit of \$5 on the sale. Mayor Tom McGuire announced after the auction failed to attract any competitive bidding that the sale would be continued at all future council sessions until the properties are sold.

B. R. Gregg of the Associated Assessment Engineers, who are assisting the city in the disposal of the tax-deeded lots, announced the minimum prices for each property. This price, he pointed out, was "what the city had in the lots in the way of clearing them of all taxes and assessments and issuing a clear title."

Calvin P. Alverson of 1675 Gramercy, obtained two lots on the southwest corner of Beech St. and Torrance Blvd., for \$975. The minimum price on these properties was \$970. Mrs. Mattilda Winters of the Erwin Hotel obtained a lot on Torrance Blvd. between Portola and Cota Aves. for the minimum price of \$385 and Frank Egerer of 807 Beech St. purchased a lot at the corner of Beech and Mariposa for the minimum of \$460.

The sales were authorized by resolution, with each purchaser being required to pay 10 per cent down and the balance within a week. The city guarantees title to the lots. Minimum price for the remainder of the properties range from \$175 each for four lots near the corner of Borden and Encargia Aves., to \$385 each for two lots on the east side of Cedar Ave., between Sierra and Mariposa.

Closed bids will be received any time by the city clerk on the remaining lots and these will be opened at the next regular council session and announced. Others may then have an opportunity of competing with those sealed offers.

Planners Deny Shelter in Park

Giving three reasons why a shelter for municipal bus patrons should not be erected in the triangular park at the intersection of Sartori and Marcelina Aves., the city Planning Commission denied the recent request of Bus Manager L. G. Gilmeister for such a building, the city council was informed Tuesday night.

The proposed shelter, in the opinion of the planners, would violate the park dedicated to the American Legion, be unsightly and would attract loafers.

ORDER BY THAILAND
Police and defense forces of Thailand recently ordered 300 American motorcycles.

It's Up to You . . .

Candidate Calibre Credit to Community
The Herald Follows a Traditional Policy
An Editorial

With eight representative citizens in the race for councilmanic posts, voters of Torrance are given an opportunity of electing two good men to fill the vacancies on the City Council caused by the recall of Councilmen Powell and Murray.

The Herald has no favorites in this field of candidates, which includes able, conscientious, honest citizens—several of whom should make good councilmen. The community should be gratified that men of such calibre have offered their services and it certainly behooves each voter to interest himself or herself in the campaign sufficiently to vote wisely at the forthcoming election, September 10.

To acquaint its readers with the various candidates, The Herald will follow its traditional policy of publishing a story for each. All eight candidates have been requested to submit their platforms and a brief background of their lives and experiences. The first group of these stories appears elsewhere in this issue. Others will be published in succeeding issues prior to the September election. Whenever pictures and cuts are furnished by the candidate, these will be published with the stories.

The Recall Committee, of which the publisher of The Herald was a member, has dissolved. It has accomplished all it proposed to do, that of bringing the issue to vote and calling a meeting for the discussion of candidates. It is up to you—the citizens of Torrance—to elect two good men to fill the vacancies. —G. C. W.

Total Valuation Is \$20,187,555

A loss of \$145,730 is noted in the total assessed valuation of the city of Torrance this year as compared with the 1940 figure, according to reports received at the city hall yesterday. The 1941-42 total valuation here is \$20,187,555 as compared with \$20,333,285 last year.

With the receipt of the valuation figures, the city council may proceed with the completion of the municipal budget for fiscal 1941-42. At the same time the complete city totals were made known, the valuation of the Torrance Municipal Water district was announced as \$1,593,520 this year or a reduction of \$127,785 from last year's district valuation of \$1,721,305.

The general city valuations, divided into District No. 1 or the original city, and District No. 2, annexed territories, follows:

	Dist. No. 1	Dist. No. 2
Land	\$1,593,855	\$3,325,245
Improvements	2,389,795	3,247,955
Personal property	4,249,980	2,967,605
Less exemptions	148,535	44,795
NET VALUATION except utilities	\$8,085,095	\$9,496,010
Public utilities	1,078,820	1,527,630
TOTAL	9,163,915	11,023,640
TOTAL FOR ENTIRE CITY	\$20,187,555	
Solvent credits	1,767,235	
Unsecured real and personal property valuation	189,285	838,390

Raid on City Shrubbery Lands Pair in Court

Charged with destruction of city property—flowers and shrubbery planted between curbs and sidewalks in Hollywood Riviera—a Hermosa Beach woman and her 31-year-old son were arrested by Torrance police officers Monday.

Mrs. Ethel M. Heath, 54, plead guilty to the charge and she agreed to pay the estimated damage of \$5. Her son, Grant Beck, also of Hermosa Beach, plead not guilty and his trial will be set later.

Mrs. Heath, according to the police, had recently built a new home in Hermosa and assisted by her son, was ridding the city shrubbery to replant it about her place.

Council to Fix Tax Levy Next Tuesday

At an adjourned meeting next Tuesday afternoon at 4:45 o'clock, the city council will fix the 1941-42 municipal tax rate, it was announced at the adjourned session late yesterday afternoon. The three-man municipal board of Mayor Tom McGuire and Councilmen James Hitchcock and Vern Babcock will hold a final conference on the proposed municipal budget for the present fiscal year tonight.

For the past four years the city levy has been \$1.10 per \$100 valuation in the original city limits and \$1.07 on property in the annexed areas.

There are only seven different tire sizes used on 1941 passenger cars. Cars built in 1939 used ten different sizes, and in 1940 nine.

Group Passes First Aid Exams



THEY KNOW BANDAGING . . . The initial Red Cross First Aid class passed the final examination Monday night with bandages all shipshape and right rhythm in their arterial respiration. Part of the class is shown above completing their tests under supervision of their instructor, Mrs. Elsa Stone. Left to right are: Emma Quaggin, Maude Deinger, Alice Clayton whose face is covered by Helen Faith, Annie R. Jolley, Ernest Toimie, Mrs. Stone, Olivia Lee, Velora Murphy, Margaret Fordice, Fan Wilkes and Roxie Sleeth. Other members of the class not shown in the picture were Violet Silver, and Irene Hopkins.

Ousted Officials Seeking Court Writ to Force Names on Sept. 10 Ballot

AUDITOR COTTON DENIES RAMBO CLAIM OF CHANGES IN CITY'S COURT DOCKET

Asserting that instances of alleged "alterations and changes" in the official city court dockets as claimed by C. J. Rambo before the city council July 22 were merely corrections, Logan R. Cotton, city auditor, wrote the council Tuesday night his side in the controversy which broke in the closing days of the recent recall campaign: His reply to the former auditor's charges, in full follows:

"Some time ago there appeared before you the man who formerly audited the books of the City of Torrance. During the course of his remarks, whereby he was attempting to discredit the audit submitted by me, he cited the three following examples to show the inaccuracy of the report: "1. Docket Number 6293, whereby an original entry of \$5.00 was altered to an entry of \$50.00. The audit shows specifically that this was a correction and not an alteration in that the fine was assessed in the amount of \$50.00 and incorrectly entered in the amount of \$5.00. Subsequent to the original entry the correction was made so that the Docket would correctly reflect the actual sentence imposed. The correctness of the \$50.00 figure may be ascertained from the files of the Chief of Police. The Docket reflects that \$50.00 of this amount was paid. No Reference to Sheriffage."

"2. Case Number 6294, the correction herein made was similar to the case above referred to. The files of the Chief of Police on this case substantiate the corrected amount of \$50.00 as the fine imposed. The Docket (Continued on Page 6-A)

Four were listed to make the race for the long unexpired term ending in April 1942 and five were declared eligible for the voters' selection of who will serve out the short unexpired term ending in April 1942. Yesterday one of the candidates for the short term, William H. Day of 2630 Sonoma Ave., announced his withdrawal from the campaign "for personal reasons beyond my control." Day, who works in the personnel office of the Columbia Steel Company here, expressed his appreciation for the many expressions of support he had received from friends here but declared his candidacy was not to be considered on election day. His name will appear, according to law, on the ballot however.

Candidates for the long term include Gerald M. Calder, former police chief residing at 1738 Andros; William H. Tolson, former mayor living at 2103 Arlington; James A. Evans, co-owner of the Torrance Gift Shop at 1322 Sartori, and Bert L. Allen, a welder at the National Supply Company, who lives at 1632 Hickory Ave.

Those in the race for the short term are Kenneth H. Kail, welder at the National Supply, 2117 Torrance Blvd.; E. E. (Edsel) Newton, San Pedro reporter living at 24417 Neece Ave.; Walteria; Frank Paour, Jr., insurance agent of 1610 Annapola; Carl L. Hyde, former Chamber of Commerce secretary and executive director of the California State Unemployment office, 1905 Hickory Ave., and Day, who has withdrawn.

County Releases Gas Tax to Cities

Release of gasoline tax funds to cities, on condition that labor for street improvement projects be obtained from county relief rolls wherever possible, was being arranged for today, following action of the board of supervisors Monday.

The supervisors adopted the recommendation of Wayne Allen, their chief officer, who "softened" in his previously announced plan to withhold all gas tax funds until after September 1, or "until after the present emergency," referring to the county relief crisis.

County Counsel J. H. O'Connor started at once to draft new resolutions with the new proviso, and these will be sent to the county road department and in turn forwarded to the supervisors when money is on hand to release to the cities.

Third Union Service In Civic Aud Sunday

The third union service in the Civic Auditorium will be held by the Torrance Ministerial Association Sunday evening, August 17, starting at 7:30 o'clock. The subject of the message by Rev. Harry Branton, pastor of the Methodist church, will be "Faith and Obedience." There will be special music and everyone in the community is invited to attend.

Hearing Set For Monday Morning

Still unwilling to give up their fight to restore their lucrative jobs on the city payroll, even after a majority of Torrance voters had recalled them from office, former Councilmen George V. Powell and John V. Murray took their case to the District Court of Appeals on last Friday.

They then, attorney, P. G. Briney, former city attorney here and now practicing law in San Pedro, they obtained an alternative writ of mandate from Judge John M. York which was served on City Clerk A. H. Bartlett Tuesday morning.

The writ states that the clerk must either file the nomination petitions of Powell and Murray, who are seeking re-election to the offices from which they were recalled, and include their names with other candidates on the ballot on the Sept. 10 election or he must show cause before the Appellate court next Monday morning, Aug. 18, at 10 o'clock why he refuses to do so.

Prompt Decision Expected
Bartlett and City Attorney John E. McCall will appear before the court Monday with their arguments and opinions, after which the court is expected to issue a decision. McCall advised Bartlett in a written opinion, citing the statutes governing the question together with a number of court decisions, that Powell and Murray were not eligible to run for re-election to succeed themselves at a special election called by their recall. It was upon the basis of this opinion that Bartlett refused to include the names of Powell and Murray upon the ballot.

While such matters have been taken to the Superior Court a number of times, this is said to be the first time a decision has been sought from the Appellate court. Consequently, the outcome of the case is being watched by municipal attorneys throughout the state.

A prompt decision by the court is anticipated due to the fact that there are only a few days remaining before the necessary election notices must be published and the ballots printed.

Gilmeister's Job Ends Tomorrow; C. C. Curtailed

The services of L. J. Gilmeister as secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the assistant secretary, Miss Dorothy Jensen, will terminate tomorrow, it was decided at a meeting of chamber directors yesterday afternoon.

The action was necessitated by a recent action of the city council, on vote of the then Powell-Murray-Babcock majority, which notified the chamber that there would be no municipal funds available for the current fiscal year that began July 1. Chamber directors were preparing the customary budget of \$72,000, which has been financed through municipal tax funds, when the action by the city council was taken. Aside from the small sum collected from membership dues at one dollar a year, the chamber has depended entirely for its upkeep upon tax money, allocated to it by the city council.

However, the chamber offices will be kept open and a clerk engaged to take care of routine affairs until such time as a plan for adequately financing the regular chamber promotional activities can be arranged. It was announced by Dean L. Sears, president of the board. The salary of the clerk will be paid out of accumulated funds collected from membership dues, he said.

It is not known whether Gilmeister will be asked to attend. (Continued on Page 5-A)